

To: Local Postal Customer
ECRWSS EDDM

June 2025



2024 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

A recent article in The Chronicle of Philanthropy noted that rural areas in America receive much less charitable funding from national foundations than they should based on population. This doesn't come as a big surprise to many of us who live in "flyover country." The Midwest and especially its rural areas are often overlooked.



While this statistic may be discouraging to some, it is actually *inspiring* to me and others on our committee. We don't wait for help or handouts from national organizations to build projects or support programs here in Oakes - while we appreciate any support we can get, we are busy building our own charitable resource in the Oakes Area Community Foundation.

This foundation will generate charitable dollars for grant awards in our area forever, regardless of what other funding may come our way. **Please consider how you can help our fund grow to be a significant resource for our area.** Gifts of all sizes are appreciated!

If you ever have any questions about this foundation, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of our other Advisory Committee members: Ron Goodman, Toni Ptacek, Anna Sell, Rebecca Undem, and Denise Wagner.

- John Zetocha, Chair

Oakes Area Community Foundation

- Established in 1998
- Total Market Value of Fund (as of 12/31/24): **\$798,746**
- Total Gifts in 2024: **\$26,570**
- Total Grants in 2024: **13 grants, totaling \$26,870**
- Total Grants given out since 1998: **145 grants, totaling \$246,952**

\$26,870 Awarded in 2024

The Oakes Area Community Foundation awarded 13 grants in November of 2024:

- Growing Small Towns:** \$1,000 for Interactive Community Art Classes
- Oakes Golf Club:** \$3,500 for bridge approaches and pump panel electrical
- Active Arts Club Inc:** \$3,000 for performers/artists for Main Street Park and other venues
- Oakes Public Schools:** \$500 for Internet Safety for Adults: Keeping Kids Safe
- Tiny Tornadoes:** \$4,000 for winter heating expenses
- CHI Oakes Hospital & Clinic:** \$1,000 for ER Door replacement
- Dickey County Master Gardeners:** \$2,000 for the Master Gardener Healing Garden
- Hospice of the Red River Valley:** \$1,000 for the Oakes Area Grief and Bereavement Program
- Kedish House:** \$500 for a vacuum and carpet cleaner for the office upstairs
- Oakes Alano/AA:** \$1,000 for sewer repair
- Oakes Fire District:** \$5,000 for building construction
- Riding for Dreams Adaptive Riding Program:** \$3,300 for riding program horse care
- BIO Girls:** \$1,070 for 2025 programming in Oakes

**Don't Miss our annual
Golf Tournament Fundraiser!**
Tuesday, July 29, Oakes Golf Club
Registration at 9am, Shotgun start at 10
Contact Ron for more info: 701-710-0368

RRVW Directs \$1,000 to OACF

The North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration and safe, legal operation of railroad equipment historically used for maintenance of way purposes.

NARCOA members toured the Red River Valley and Western Railroad (RRVW) this spring and made a special stop and demonstration of their railcars in Oakes. While there, NARCOA also made a \$1,000 donation to the Oakes Area Community Foundation, at the request of the RRVW.

“It was quite fascinating to watch how this group of folks very passionate about the railroad got those cars turned around,” said John Zetocha, Chair of the OACF Advisory Committee. *“And we are very grateful to RRVW for recommending our foundation to receive NARCOA’s donation.”*

NARCOA’s Memorial Day weekend trip was over 300 miles and included stops in Oakes and Lamoure, ND, and Britton and Milbank, SD.



Above: Members of NARCOA demonstrate with one of the mini railcars at Hockenberry Park. Below: Ron Goodman and John Zetocha of OACF accept the donation from NARCOA.



Charitable-Giving Experts

The Oakes Area Community Foundation is a component fund of the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF). NDCF invests the money on our behalf, provides support services to our committee (including financial and marketing services), provides an annual report (and THIS report every year) and conducts an annual audit.

NDCF also has on staff charitable-giving experts who are available for consultations if people have questions about charitable-giving and its tax consequences.

We have been lucky to have worked with Amy Stromsodt (located in Larimore, ND) for many years. NDCF has recently hired a new Development Director, however, closer to Oakes: Scott Nicholson is based out of Wahpeton, ND, and will be working with us moving forward.

While most of the interactions with NDCF staff happen at the committee level, any local resident can contact them with questions about charitable-giving. These consultations are confidential, free, and you are under no obligation to give to NDCF or the Oakes Area Community Foundation. NDCF provides these services free of charge to help people accomplish their philanthropic goals.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Scott at 701-892-2007 or at Scott@NDCF.net. He is available via phone or is happy to meet in person if you would like more information about



- Leaving a gift in your will
- Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA
- the ND State Tax credit
- Transferring stock to a charity
- Establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity
- Donating agricultural commodities
- Or other related topics.

Questions or want more information?



Oakes Area Community Foundation
Attn: John Zetocha, Chair
PO Box 571, Oakes, ND 58474

701-742-2112 | Oakes@NDCF.net

www.NDCF.net/Oakes



The Oakes Area Community Foundation is a component fund of the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF). Established in 1976, NDCF provides comprehensive charitable gift planning and financial services, including bequest planning and an annual audit. For more information about NDCF, contact Scott Nicholson, NDCF Development Director at 701-892-2007 or Scott@NDCF.net.